

Filed for intro on 05/02/2001

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 240  
By Jackson

A RESOLUTION To congratulate Cordia Wilkinson Harrington on receiving the Woman Business Owner of the Year Award.

WHEREAS, This General Assembly is proud to recognize the achievements of Tennessee's outstanding citizens who through their dedicated efforts and steadfast commitment have distinguished themselves as economic leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Cordia Wilkinson Harrington is one such deserving Tennessean, who was recently recognized as the Woman Business Owner of the Year by the National Association of Women Business Owners; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Harrington owns Tennessee Bun Company, the most automated bakery in the world; Nashville Bun Company, a packaging and freezing facility for the bakery; and Bun Lady Transport (BLT), a fleet of trucks that ensure the delivery of buns; and

WHEREAS, The Tennessee Bun Company manufactures hamburger buns for McDonald's Restaurants in six states and for Pepperidge Farms in 40 states; Cordia Harrington

SJR0240

00604083

was approved as an international supplier for McDonald's in April, an honor which will open up numerous international business opportunities for this remarkable businesswoman; and

WHEREAS, In 1981, Ms. Harrington was employed at an Arkansas travel company and working part-time in a real estate office, when she was encouraged by her friends to start her own real estate business; she bartered for her office space, rented a desk and chair, and opened her own office with just six hundred dollars, most of which was spent on signs; four years later, she had built a seven million dollar business; and

WHEREAS, At the suggestion of a realty client who owned a McDonald's franchise, Ms. Harrington examined the profitability of owning and operating a McDonald's in the late 1980s, and completed two years of training while continuing to run her real estate business; and

WHEREAS, By 1990, Cordia had made her first down payment on her first McDonald's, and as a result of her astute management and diligent efforts, she became the proud owner of three McDonald's in Effingham, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, A business pioneer in the truest sense, Cordia Wilkinson Harrington purchased a Greyhound bus station and located it in the parking lot of one of her restaurants, and thereafter her McDonald's reached the top fifty in sales volume for the country; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Harrington's interest in the bun industry began when the members of her McDonald's owners cooperative placed her on the Bun Committee to inspect bakeries throughout the world, which led to another business venture in 1994, to own a bakery and supply McDonald's Restaurants with buns; three years and thirty-two interviews later, McDonald's offered her the opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Wanting to return to the South, Cordia Harrington built her bakery in the city of Dickson, near a McDonald's regional distributor; and

WHEREAS, Through her creativity, dedication, and hard work, Ms. Harrington has distinguished herself as a leader in her profession; she epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to recognize this distinguished woman for her significant achievements; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we congratulate Cordia Wilkinson Harrington upon being named Woman Business Owner of the Year by the National Association of Women Business Owners, commend her many professional accomplishments, and offer her our heartfelt wishes for every success and happiness in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.